

Service Date: January 27, 2003

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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In the Matter of the Application of	)	UTILITY DIVISION
NorthWestern Corporation for Authority to	)	
Consume a Credit Agreement and Issue	)	DOCKET NO. D2002.12.159
280 Million in Principal Amount of Secured	)	ORDER NO. 6474
Long-Term Notes in the Form of	)	
First Mortgage Bonds.	)	

**ORDER CONTINUING CONSIDERATION**

On December 23, 2002, NorthWestern Corporation, pursuant to §§ 69-3-501-507, MCA, filed an Application "for authority to consummate a credit agreement and issue 280 million in principal amount of secured long-term notes in the form of first mortgage bonds." Section 69-3-503, MCA, indicates that an application (petition) of this kind be "disposed of" within 30 days of filing, "unless, for good cause, it is necessary to continue consideration thereof for a longer period." Thirty days from filing of this Application was January 22, 2003.

Commission consideration of this Application will require more than 30 days. This Application is made at a time of financial difficulty for NorthWestern Corporation, making it necessary to more carefully scrutinize the Application and to submit questions to NorthWestern about the Application.

**ORDER**

Pursuant to § 69-3-503, MCA, the Commission will extend its consideration of the NorthWestern Application in this docket for not more than 30 days after January 22, 2003. If it is necessary to continue consideration past February 21, 2003, the Commission will issue a subsequent order so stating, explaining its reasons therefor.

DONE AND DATED this 14th day of January, 2003 by a vote of 5 to 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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BOB ROWE, Chairman

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TOM SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

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MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

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GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

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JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)